

# MAN - APES OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

Part I

by Rex Gilroy

## YOWIES

YOU'VE HEARD THE  
RUMOURS - NOW  
READ THE ONLY  
RESEARCH AVAILABLE  
ON A SUBJECT  
IGNORED BY THE  
'EXPERTS'!

If it should surprise you that sober Australians are seeing creatures that you have always believed to be confined to the vast, snowy recesses and peaks of the Himalayas, then hold on to your armchair, because by the time you have finished reading this two part article, you could be convinced as I am, that similar man - like monsters exist right here in Australia!

You will learn that the so-called 'abominable snowman' has been seen over a wide area of eastern Australia, from the earliest times of European settlement to the present day.

As I have said, 'abominable snowmen' are by no means confined to the Himalayas. Reported sightings of similar man-beasts have been recorded from both mainland and south-east Asia, and also over a wide area of North America.

The creatures are known under a variety of different names. Throughout the Himalayas they are known to the Sherpa people as "Yeti" (dweller among the rocks). In China, the Chi-Chi, or Chang Mi (Wild Man); in the Soviet Union the Almastis or Chuchuna (hairy man of the woods) - the notorious 'Bigfoot'. Other hairy man-apes are said to inhabit the jungles of south-east Asia, and New Guinea.

Further south still in Australia, the ancient aborigines preserved traditions of the Yowie (also known as Doolagahl in south-eastern Australia), or 'great hairy man'.

The Yowies, like their overseas cousins, were described as often enormous hairy man-like, ape-like creatures of tremendous weight and strength.

Their physical description, as given by the aborigines to early European settlers last century, which also matches those of modern day eye-witnesses, is I believe, significant in the eventual scientific classification of these creatures.

They were, said the Aborigines, terrifying to look upon - fearsome and hairy, up to, or over 2.6m in height - with strong, muscular bodies and powerful arms and large hands longer than a human's. They walked upright upon two legs with a stooped gait. Their heads were sunk into their shoulders, giving them the stooped appearance. They had a pointed sagittal crest (skull dome) and a receding forehead, with thick, protruding eyebrow ridges and large, deeply set eyes. Males were often hairier than females, who had long pendulous breasts. Also, the feet of the Yowies were much larger than those of a normal - sized human, possessing an opposable big toe.

These mysterious hominids roamed the remoter, forest-covered mountain regions, either in small family groups, or hunting in ones and twos, their females and young secreted back in their lairs. The aborigines both feared and respected the Yowies, venerating them

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as sacred creatures from the 'dream-time'.

In fact, aboriginal folklore is full of traditions of giant man-like beings, creatures sometimes over 3m in height. While some were giant humans who made large stone tools, and sometimes fire, others were more ape-like. From Western Australia and the Northern Territory I have obtained traditions of a gigantic gorilla-like monster that once terrorised aboriginal tribes of the interior. (Australia's giant stone-age races will be covered by me in a future issue of NEXUS). From the vast amount of evidence I have gathered, it is obvious to me that the Yowie/Doolagahl, like their Central Australian gorilla monster relatives were no mere aboriginal "bunyip" but a flesh and blood creature.

What then is the Yowie?

A hypothetical reconstruction of a possible Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot skull, based upon the descriptions of the head is revealing. The pointed sagittal crest is a primate, rather than modern human feature, while the receding forehead and thick, protruding eyebrow ridges is a feature of primitive "ape-man" skulls of Java Man and Australopithecus, who inhabited Asia half a million years to two million years ago, during the last ice-age.

In both China and Java since the 1930s, anthropologists have excavated massive fossil jaws and teeth, of an giant upright-walking, man-like ape called Gigantopithecus (South China Giant), believed to have stood at least 4m in height. Also, giant-size fossil footprints found in Asia are thought by some to be the possible tracks of Gigantopithecus. Similar giant fossil tracks have been found in Australia. These closely resemble the freshly made tracks of Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot creatures in modern times.

Gigantopithecus is at present regarded by many 'relict hominid' researchers, such as myself, as the ancestor of the later, 'smaller' Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot etc.

While most 'respectable' scientists dismiss the surviving 'relict hominids' theory out-of-hand, there are a number of others worldwide who think otherwise. Of these, eminent American anthropologist, Dr Grover Krantz, of Washington State University, is best known.

From exhaustive studies and comparisons of what he considers to be authentic 'Bigfoot' footprint plaster casts, Krantz concluded that the creatures may indeed be living representatives of Gigantopithecus.

Despite widespread scientific opinion that Gigantopithecus would have walked on its knuckles, like a gorilla, rather than on its feet, Dr Krantz makes a convincing argument, based on the spread of its lower jaw, that Gigantopithecus was actually an erect biped.

Using the massive fossil jaws of these monster man-apes as a

guide, he says:

"If you change a gorilla to a vertical posture like a human, and make the neck come straight down, one thing you have to do is spread the back of its lower jaw to make room for the neck". And as can be shown, the lower jaw of Gigantopithecus spreads much more widely than the jaw of a gorilla.

"Gigantopithecus was so much like the Sasquatch that I would assume Gigantopithecus is alive today."

During the last great ice-age, sea levels were much lower than they are today, and land-bridges joined Australia and the Americas to the Asian mainland. It was over these "bridges" that the ancestors of the Yowie/Bigfoot would have migrated.

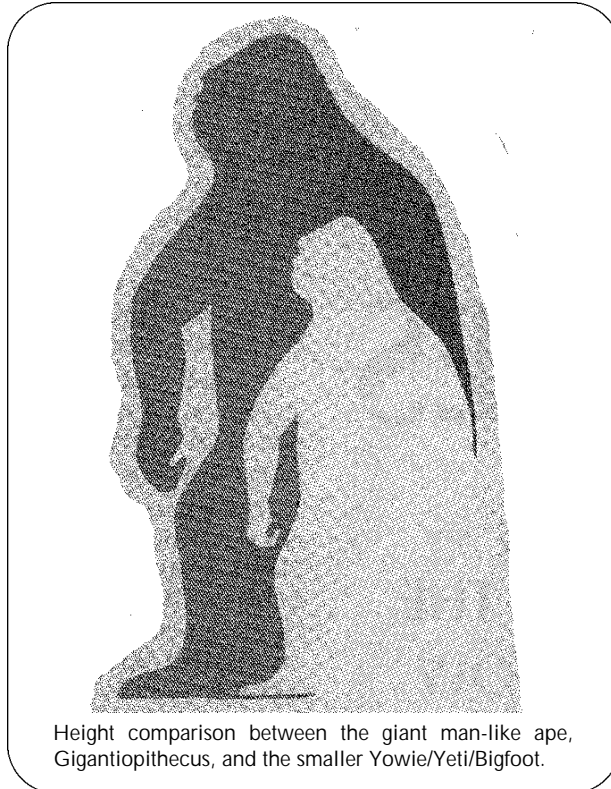
Our early European settlers took the existence of the Yowie/Doolagahl for granted, regarding them as some secretive race that inhabited the still largely unexplored eastern mountain ranges. In fact, sightings of "Hairy Men" by Europeans date back to the first years of settlement. I find these 'historic' Yowie reports fascinating, for they lend the mystery some degree of credibility. It is a belief in this credibility that has encouraged me, for over the past 34 years, to undertake countless field expeditions, often into some of the most inhospitable mountain country in search of evidence of these creatures' existence.

It is now 20 years since I established the "Australian Unknown Animals Research Centre" (PO Box 473, Kootingal. NSW. 2352. Ph: (067) 787 201) for the purpose of gathering all manner of evidence on relict hominids, and a variety of other 'unknown' land and sea-dwelling creatures of the Australian/Pacific region. Here sightings, reports, footprint plaster

casts, any photographic material and other evidence is scientifically assessed, and shared with other researchers in Australia and overseas.

As an open-minded field naturalist and historical researcher/archaeologist, I have always been fascinated by the 'known' as well as the 'unknown' in nature. I realise that lack of evidence does not necessarily imply 'lack of existence' for any rarely seen or 'unknown' animal species.

I am often asked, why do I persist in my search, year after year without finding any actual physical proof? For me the answer is threefold: Firstly, I seek to vindicate ancient aboriginal traditions of the Yowie; secondly, to obtain the necessary physical evidence, such as skeletal remains, to put before scientists to have them accorded the same protective legislation given to any other rare native fauna; and thirdly, even if my searches fail to find this evidence, at least I am privileged to see magnificent wilderness areas largely unknown to most city-bound Australians!



Height comparison between the giant man-like ape, Gigantopithecus, and the smaller Yowie/Yeti/Bigfoot.

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As I have said, historic sightings of the "great hairy man" lend credibility to relict hominid research. Why? Because they were taken seriously by the press of those times, generations before the ignorant tongue-in-cheek reporting regrettably practiced by today's "gentlemen of the press".

There are vague stories of "hairy men" seen in the Hornsby district north of Sydney about 1822, followed shortly after by sightings on the Blue Mountains west of Sydney, and in the central western NSW mountain ranges. Sightings in the southern alpine region of Victoria/NSW date from around the 1850s, and in the northern NSW mountain ranges, such as on the Carrai Range west of Kempsey, from the 1840s.

My files bulge with stories such as the following:

In 1889, a cattleman, Mr Ben Delgate, with several other bushmen, was mustering stock in the Jindabyne district of the Snowy Mountains one late afternoon in May. As they moved the mob of cattle through timber on the banks of the Snowy River, their cattle dogs began acting strangely, sniffing the air, then whimpering and barking at something somewhere in the dense forest.

Ben and his mates were startled to see, emerging from the trees, a tall hairy man-like creature 3m tall, brandishing a large tree limb which it began waving threateningly at the men, emitting loud snarls as it did so.

The cattle began running in all directions, scattering in fright. One of the men raised his rifle at the man-beast and fired, hitting him in the shoulder. Screaming, the monster fled off into the timber, eluding the men, whose horses could not be made to pursue the creature. It could be heard screaming in the distance, crashing its way up through mountainside scrub.

During 1895, two government geologists established a camp near Tumut, while on a survey for minerals in the Snowy Mountains. Late one night prior to sleeping, the men saw something like a dingo moving around the outskirts of the camp illuminated by the glow from the campfire. One of the men fired a shotgun at the "thing", at which it adopted an upright stance upon two legs and scrambled into the bush. It was still emitting blood-curdling screams as it faded into the distance. The men stayed up all night, piling logs on the fire with guns at the ready, in fear of the creature's return. The next morning they found traces of blood and tracks near the camp.

This incident has parallels with another which took place a few years before World War I, in the mountains behind Buggan Buggan. An aboriginal couple, Big Charlie and his wife, were driving an wagonet through rugged bushland when they were suddenly attacked, by what they described as a strong man-like hairy beast. Both escaped, bleeding, with a profusion of wounds.

Sightings persist throughout the Australian Alps to the present day. During July 1975 a group of skiers near Mount Kosciusko, saw a large hairy ape-like creature at least 2.6m to 3m tall moving up a snow covered mountainside.

The Blue Mountains have their own fair share of "historic" Yowie sightings.

By the 1870s, coal and shale miners had entered the rugged Jameison Valley, cutting a railway line from the base of Katoomba Falls several kilometers out to the Ruined Castle rock formation, where a settlement was established for the mining of the extensive kerosene shale deposits there. It did not take long for the miners to become aware of the 'hairy man'.

During 1875 a miner, Mr. J.H. Campbell, was exploring scrubland on the western slope of the "Castle", far below the tunneling operations, when he sighted what he later described as a hairy 2m tall, man-like ape-like animal moving through the scrub about 100m ahead of him, and seemingly oblivious to his presence. Mr Campbell, picking up a strong piece of tree limb for protection, stalked the hairy beast for half a kilometer before the strange creature eluded him.

Moving further north to the Kempsey district, to the west of the town rises the imposing, vast, and foreboding Carrai Range, the scene of many eerie happenings involving the Yowie since the 1840s. How early pioneers were able to penetrate this "green hell" was beyond me, when I first led an expedition into the region in 1979. Yet our hardy pioneers had done exactly that. As early as 1842 they had reached the Carrai Plateau to establish farms, now long vanished with the advancing jungle.

It was not long before the settlers began finding strange footprints around the creeks where they took their cattle to drink. That same year children of the settlers were frightened by a tall hairy man-like beast who came towards them from out of nearby scrub one day as they sat playing in a clearing, forcing them to flee. Some days later the strange beast was seen again near cattle and was pursued by cattlemen, but it eluded them in the dense jungle.

In 1848, at least two of the hairy man-beasts were seen on separate occasions by cattlemen. On the second occasion, the cattlemen pursued the beast up a mountainside where they appeared to have it trapped. But before they could shoot it, the creature climbed down a cliffside to disappear into deep forest.

Still further north, in the spring of 1892, five year old Rebecca O'Halloran went missing while playing on a grassy hillside near her parent's farm outside Torrington, north of Emmaville. Some toys were left on the ground but the child was nowhere to be seen when the parents began searching. They feared she had wandered off into the surrounding scrub.

Soon neighbouring farmers were joining in a search for the child until darkness prevented further searching. However the next morning searchers saw the child up in a rock shelter atop a 6.6m high cliff.

When rescued, she told the men that a "big hairy man" had picked her up and carried her (at least 5km from home), and when night approached, he had lifted her up the cliff and into the rock shelter where he left her and did not return.

Searchers eventually tracked the unseen monster into a valley where they found huge footprints in the soil, but these tracks vanished when the beast moved into rocky terrain, never to return.

The foregoing 'historical' Yowie reports are but a few of many from my collection.

Modern archaeological dating techniques demonstrate that our aborigines have occupied Australia for at least 50,000 years, and evidence is coming to light of even earlier stone-age people have preceded them! Obviously some of these people were giants.

Many people in modern times claim to have seen hairy giant man-like (and woman-like) creatures in the Australian bush.

In Part II of this article (next issue of Nexus), we will examine some of these claims, and the findings of large man-beast footprints in remote wilderness areas, as the Yowie Mystery continues.